

THE COMMONWEALTH.

E. HILLIARD, Editor. Published Every Thursday.

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Publisher's Announcement.

It is a settled point in newspaper ethics that editors and publishers are not responsible for the views of correspondents...

SUITABLE NEW YEAR PRAYER.

(Robert Louis Stevenson.)

We beseech thee, Lord, to be-hold us with favor, weak men and women, subsisting under the covert of Thy patience. Be patient still. Suffer us yet a while longer with our broken promises of good...

AGAIN AT THE DESK.

The editor of THE COMMONWEALTH again greets his readers with the work of this week's paper with a keen appreciation of restoration to his place and with thanks to Mr. W. L. Vaughan for his good work during our absence from the office.

The best wishes of the season to all.

THE MEETING MONDAY.

Let the farmers of the county remember the meeting in Halifax next Monday, January 6th, of the Halifax county branch of the Southern Cotton Association.

And permit us to make a suggestion that the farmers who do go to Halifax Monday make it a point to go into the meeting when the court house bell rings. Do not say or think that the others will do the work all right without you...

THE NEW YEAR.

Just naturally we feel inclined to say some things about the closing of the old year and the opening of the new; but so many things have transpired during the time since our last publication, December 19th, space is crowded.

Let us say that we desire to greet all our readers with the sincerest wish for happiness and prosperity during the year 1908. No matter what the gratifications for achievements, or regrets for disappointments of the old year, there is to most people something exhilarating and inspiring in the coming of a new year.

In this country, and in this particular region, most people at first thought feel like saying that the new year holds out little hope; for the money stringency has cut short every one's expectations. But, good friends, the money view is not the only view that belongs to the new year.

Let us, then, all look for the best that may come during the new year and forget the pangs and disappointments of the old. A happy new year to all.

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OUR PREMIUM OFFER.

Instead of raising the price of THE COMMONWEALTH in keeping with the prices in other things we propose to give cash paying subscribers more than ever for their money.

Look out for our premium offer next week. We have something nice for cash subscribers, but there is no space to state it this week.

"A QUIET CHRISTMAS."

So says almost every one who remarks about it at all. The absence of drunkenness was noted by many. Two ladies who rode to the cemetery in the late afternoon before Christmas, on their return met many people, white and colored, going out of town; and one of the ladies remarked that when there were saloons in Scotland Neck such crowds would not have observed such perfect order as prevailed with them this Christmas.

RALEIGH'S PROHIBITION.

The temperance advocates throughout the State rejoice at the prohibition victory in Raleigh Dec. 26th. There were 1,311 votes cast in the election, 928 for prohibition, 381 for dispensary and 2 for saloons, giving prohibition a majority of 547 over the dispensary.

Raleigh has had the dispensary four years, the sales of liquor under the system amounting to \$250,000, with profits of about \$75,000, according to the Raleigh correspondent to the Norfolk Landmark. The profits from the dispensary were divided between school and road funds.

It is a credit to the people of Raleigh that, while the dispensary profits reduced taxes, they preferred to pay more taxes and be rid of the evil effects of the dispensary system.

Looking calmly at the temperance situation in North Carolina, those who are not advocates of prohibition will admit that it looks like the State will be under prohibition in a short while. And the same conclusion may be safely drawn for the entire South.

TO THE FARMERS OF HALIFAX COUNTY.

The Southern Cotton Association is no longer an experiment. During the few years of its activity it has brought the world to acknowledge the justness on which its principles are based and the power which it wields in helping control the cotton market.

The achievements already accomplished are somewhat remarkable and the manipulators and manufacturers of cotton the world over realize full well that they must reckon with this organization of Southern farmers in handling and pricing the cotton crop.

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ONCE MORE, LET US SAY.

Many and many times have we insisted that all correspondents to this paper send their names with their contributions. If they do not the contributions are consigned to the waste basket.

We do not especially desire to publish the name if the writer prefers otherwise, but we must know the author of every communication.

Two interesting communications have been received for this issue of THE COMMONWEALTH, one signed "J. M.", the other signed "X. Y. Z.", but we could not publish them. The writer's name should accompany the communication on a slip if he does not wish it published.

If "X. Y. Z." will let us know his or her real name in time we will publish the communication next week.

Death of Mr. H. A. Pittman.

After a short illness, at about two o'clock a. m. Saturday, Dec. 28th, 1907, Mr. Henry Allen Pittman, at his home a few miles from Scotland Neck, passed away into the world of mystery, and of things eternal. Mr. Pittman was about sixty-three years old, one of the old soldiers of the Confederacy, and a member of the Buck Kitchen Camp.

Mr. Pittman has left four sons and two daughters to mourn the loss of a dear and affectionate father. His wife died June 20th, 1907. His presence will be much missed by his many friends and neighbors.

On Saturday, Dec. 28, 1907, between three and four o'clock p. m. the aged, tired and worn out body was laid to rest in the Episcopal cemetery, Scotland Neck. The burial was well attended. The people were very quiet, serious and reverential during the performance of the last offices.

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G. W. P.

A Sunday Marriage.

There was a marriage at the Baptist parsonage Sunday, Dec. 22, that was a bit romantic. As Rev. G. T. Lumpkin returned from church Mr. Norman Barr called and asked if he would marry him. Mr. Lumpkin answered in the affirmative, whereupon Mr. Barr handed Mr. Lumpkin the marriage license, and went away for the girl who was to become his bride.

Mr. Vaughan to Washington.

Mr. W. L. Vaughan, who for nearly three months has had editorial control of THE COMMONWEALTH, left Monday for Washington, N. C., where he goes to enter upon his chosen profession, the law.

When the editor of this paper was taken sick in September, Mr. Vaughan assumed the duties of editor and reporter, and through the editor's long illness he did his work with a thoroughness which illustrated his distinguished and conspicuous ability as a newspaper man. Mr. Vaughan, after graduating at Wake Forest, taught at Wakefield and Raleigh, and then filled an important place in Wake Forest as instructor in English. He studied law and obtained license before the Supreme Court last September.

Obituary.

On the morning of December 17, 1907, the death angel entered the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Barnes, near Dawson's, and took therefrom its light and joy. It was little Claude their infant son, aged seventeen months. He was sick only a few hours with something like diphtheria and though his suffering was severe it was of short duration as the angel soon wafted his little spirit to its heavenly home.

Darling baby thou has left us, And we long for thee in vain, But we know that thou art free from All thy earthly care and pain; Free from suffering the spirit And in peace rest thy soul; Dearest baby, thou has entered In the blessed heavenly goal.

And to be resigned we are trying, For we know God deemed it best, And thy face, so calm and peaceful, Told us thou has found sweet rest, And we would not call thee back here To this world of pain and woe, When the perfect joy of heaven Thou forever shall know.

A FRIEND.

Ailsbrook-Jackson.

At the residence of Elder W. B. Strickland Dec. 18, 1907 at 5:30 o'clock, p. m., Mr. J. H. Ailsbrook was united in the holy bonds of matrimony to Miss Augusta Jackson. The ceremony was performed by Elder W. B. Strickland. From there the happy couple went to the home of the groom where a most delicious supper was served and a delightful hour was spent with their relatives.

Epworth News.

Mr. Thomas Carlisle died Wednesday, Dec. 18th. He was taken sick Sunday, Dec. 15th, with black jaundice. He leaves a wife and one child, one sister and one brother. Mr. D. A. Week's wife is right sick with rheumatism. Mr. Willie Whitehead will move to Farmville about the first of Jan., 1908. P. H. Pittman has rented his farm. Dr. Earl Weeks and wife came up from Farmville to spend Christmas with his father, G. W. Weeks.

Alpheus Vaughan Pardon.

Raleigh, N. C. Dec. 24.—Governor Glenn grants a Christmas pardon to Alpheus Vaughan, former manager of the Singer Sewing Machine office at Raleigh, who has served two years and four months of a five years' sentence for embezzling \$2,700. Vaughan has a wife and three children and has been a model prisoner.

Dr. Cullom Sunday.

Last Sunday Dr. W. R. Cullom, of Wake Forest, filled the Baptist pulpit here morning and evening. At 11 o'clock he preached a strong sermon from Isaiah 32:2: "A man shall be as a hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest, as rivers of waters in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land."

Emphasis was laid upon the fact that the world needs real, true men who are faithful to their mission to do great things for humanity. Strong and striking illustrations were given from the Bible and some from the world's history outside of the Bible showing the use to which God has put man as a medium of great and good works.

At night Dr. Cullom preached from 2 Cor. 5:7: "If any man be in Christ he is a new creature." He said that when one accepts Jesus Christ as his Savior he is new from four view-points. (1) He has a new standing with God and with men; (2) he has a new motive; (3) he has a new view of Christ himself; (4) he has a new mission in the world.

North Carolina Day.

On Dec. 20th the Scotland Neck graded school observed North Carolina Day. Following is the programme of the interesting exercises of the day: NORTH CAROLINA DAY PROGRAM. Song. Ho! For Carolina. School. Reading. Origin of the Scotch-Irish—Their Character. Louise Futrell.

Reading. The Scotch-Irish in Orange County. Part (1) Laura Clark, Part (2) Mattie Josey. Piano Solo. Reading. The Regulators. Part (1) Katherine Kitchin, Part (2) Lee Cutchin. Piano Duet. Reading. The Regulators. Part (3) John Edwards, Part (4) William McDowell.

Chorus. By pupils from 7th, 8th, and 9th grades. Reading. Wm. Alexander Graham. Part (1) Mary Bryant, Part (2) Thad Mangum. Piano Duet. Story of the Black Boys of Cabarrus. By Superintendent. Chorus. By pupils from 7th, 8th, and 9th grades.

AFTERNOON. Song. America. By School. Reading. James K. Polk. Hattie Whitehurst. Chorus. By pupils from 7th, 8th, and 9th grades. Reading. Andrew Jackson. Part (1) Margaret Braswell, Part (2) Estelle House. Song. The Old North State. By School. Address. General View of the Scotch-Irish in North Carolina. By Mr. Stuart H. Smith. Patriotic Medley. By pupils from 7th, 8th, and 9th grades. Vocal Solo. By Mrs. Bond.

Death of Mr. Ben Drew. Mr. Ben Drew was taken from time to eternity on the night of December 23rd. His death was sudden. His youngest son was with him and he told him that if he should be called to leave him to take charge of what he had. On Christmas afternoon his remains were laid to rest in the family burying ground. Several old soldiers were present to pay their last tribute of respect. He was faithful to duty as a soldier from '61 to '65. May many blessings rest upon his loved ones and all lovers of truth over the good old state of North Carolina. T. E. AUSBON.

BADLY MIXED UP. Abraham Brown, of Winterton, N. Y., had a very remarkable experience; he says: "Doctors got badly mixed up over me; one said heart disease; two called it kidney trouble; the fourth, blood poison; and the fifth stomach and liver trouble; but none of them helped me; so my wife advised trying Electric Bitters, which are restoring me to perfect health. One bottle did me more good than all the five doctors prescribed." Guaranteed to cure blood poison, weakness and all stomach, liver and kidney complaints, by E. T. Whitehead & Co., druggist, 50c.

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